

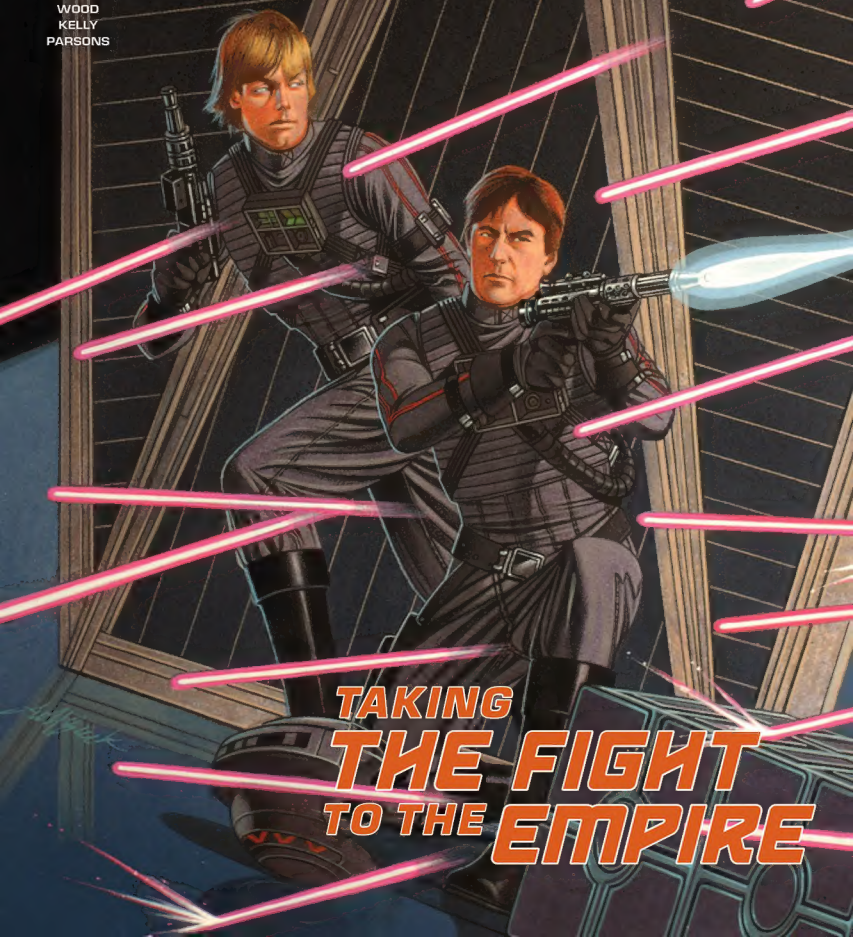


#8



WOOD
KELLY
PARSONS

STAR WARS



**TAKING
THE FIGHT
TO THE EMPIRE**

STAR WARS

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After her earlier efforts to find a safe home base for the Rebellion were thwarted by the Empire, Leia goes off alone in her X-wing—wiping all records of her departure from the Rebel flight logs.

On Coruscant, Han Solo and Chewbacca have enlisted the aid of a garbage-barge pilot named Perla to help them escape after learning that bounty hunters Boba Fett and Bossk are on their trail.

Meanwhile, in disguise, Luke Skywalker and Wedge Antilles arrange to get taken aboard the Star Destroyer *Devastator* to place a bug in its communications system. Darth Vader, seeking a return to the Emperor's favor, has placed his own spy on the *Devastator*—Birra Seah . . .



THE REBELLION FROM THE BATTLE OF YAVIN TO FIVE YEARS AFTER

Open resistance begins to spread across the galaxy in protest of the Empire's tyranny. Rebel groups unite, and the Galactic Civil War begins. This era starts with the Rebel victory that secured the Death Star plans, and ends a year after the death of the Emperor high over the forest moon of Endor. This is the era in which the events in *A New Hope*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, and *Return of the Jedi* take place.

The events in this story take place shortly after the events in *Star Wars: Episode IV—A New Hope*.

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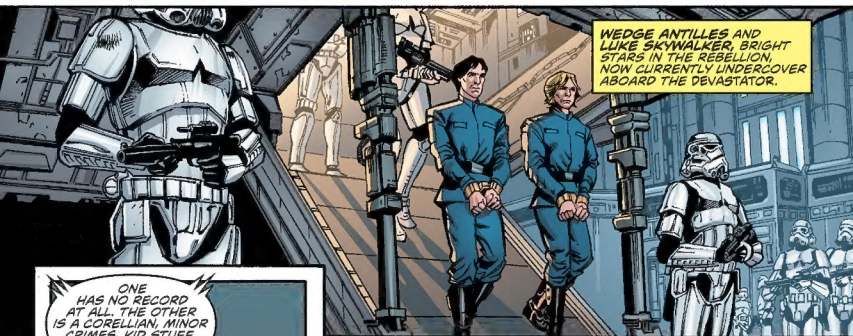
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THE STAR
DESTROYER
DEVASTATOR.

THE CHALACTAN PRITHI, ONCE A
SPIRITUAL ADEPT, NOW A MEMBER OF
LEIA ORGANA'S STEALTH SQUADRON,
MEDITATES TO CONSERVE OXYGEN.



WEDGE ANTILLES AND
LUKE SKYWALKER, BRIGHT
STARS IN THE REBELLION,
NOW CURRENTLY UNDERCOVER
ABOARD THE DEVASTATOR.

ONE
HAS NO RECORD
AT ALL. THE OTHER
IS A CORELLIAN, MINOR
CRIMES, KID STUFF.
POSSIBLE REBEL
TIES...

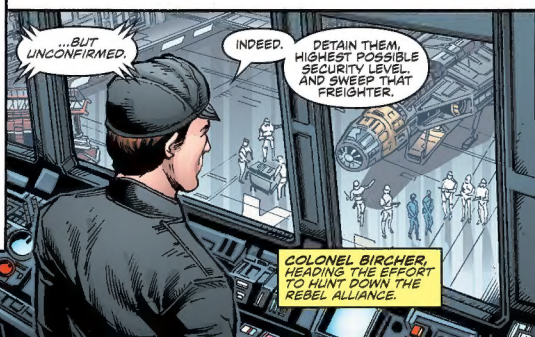


HMM.

...BUT
UNCONFIRMED.

INDEED.

DETAIN THEM,
HIGHEST POSSIBLE
SECURITY LEVEL,
AND SWEEP THAT
FREIGHTER.



COLONEL BIRCHLER,
HEADING THE EFFORT
TO HUNT DOWN THE
REBEL ALLIANCE.

CORUSCANT,
IMPERIAL CENTER.



WOOOAAAR!

GET HER
OUT OF THERE,
CHEWIE!

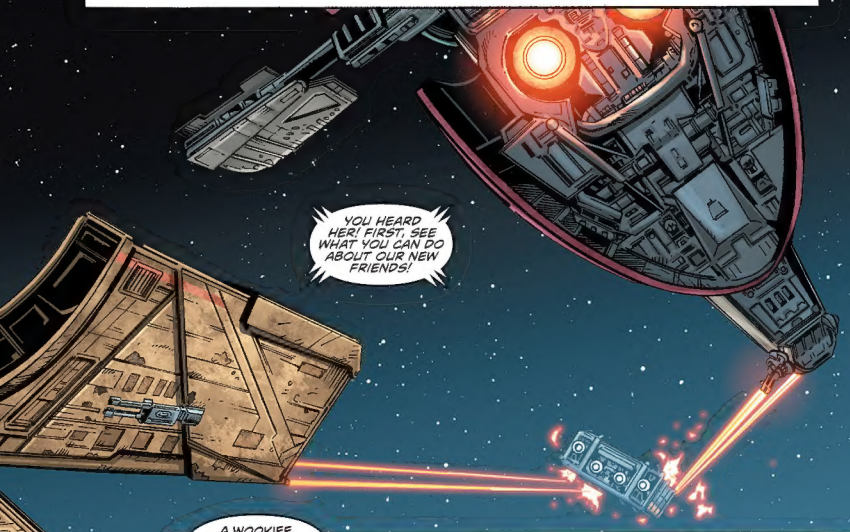
DON'T
WORRY ABOUT ME!
GET THE FALCON
SOMEWHERE SAFE.
I'LL FIND YOU
LATER!



THIS
BARGE ISN'T
SHIELDED, AND
IT'S CERTAINLY
NOT EQUIPPED FOR
TRAVEL BEYOND
THE SYSTEM.

YOUR FRIEND
SHOULDN'T GO
TOO FAR.

RRRRRRRRRAAHH?



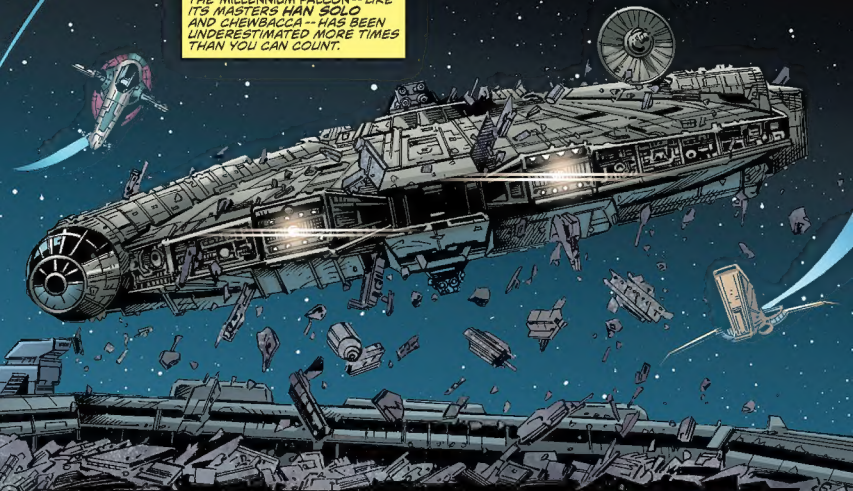
YOU HEARD
HER! FIRST, SEE
WHAT YOU CAN DO
ABOUT OUR NEW
FRIENDS!

A WOOKIEE
IN, LITERALLY,
THE WORST JUNK
FREIGHTER I'VE EVER
SEEN? AGAINST
THOSE TWO?

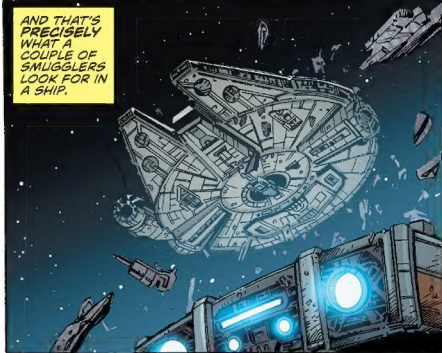
WATCH
THIS,
SISTER.

NOW,
CHEWIE!

THE MILLENNIUM FALCON -- LIKE ITS MASTERS HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA -- HAS BEEN UNDERESTIMATED MORE TIMES THAN YOU CAN COUNT.



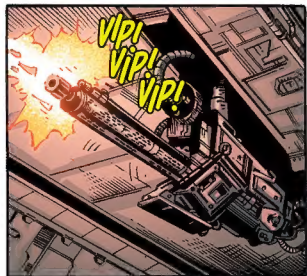
AND THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT A COUPLE OF SMUGGLERS LOOK FOR IN A SHIP.



EVADE!



VIP!
VIP!
VIP!



THE BOUNTY HUNTER BOBA FETT, ATTRACTED BY THE DUAL BOUNTIES ON SOLO'S HEAD, DID NOT FIGURE ON A FIREFIGHT IN THE SKIES ABOVE IMPERIAL CENTER.



ELSEWHERE.

PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA, BURDENED WITH THE PRESSURES OF LEADERSHIP AND THE HEAVY WEIGHT OF FAILURE, SETS OFF ON HER OWN TO SEARCH FOR A NEW HOME BASE FOR THE ALLIANCE.

BUT SHE IS NOT ENTIRELY ALONE -- ASTROMECH R2-T4 IS WITH HER.

THANKS FOR KEEPING ME COMPANY, T4.

BEEE BO VLEET
WEEET WEEOOO

I APPRECIATE IT, BUT I THINK IT'S BEST I KEEP THE TRANSPONDER OFF. THE POINT IS TO NOT BE FOUND.

VLEET DAADEEDO DEE!

OF COURSE I'M GOING TO GO BACK TO THE FLEET.

EVENUALLY.

THE EXECUTOR,
IN THE ENDOR
SYSTEM.

BIRRA
SEAH.

LORD
VADER.

SUBVOCALIZE,
BIRRA. DO NOT
LET YOURSELF BE
OVERHEARD.

YOU
HAVE NEWS
FOR ME?

WE HAVE
CAPTIVES, LORD
VADER. COLONEL
BIRCHER HAS DETAINED
TWO COURIERS ACCUSED
OF BEING REBEL
COLLABORATORS.

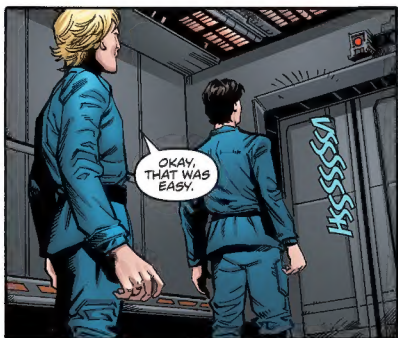
THEIR
NAMES?

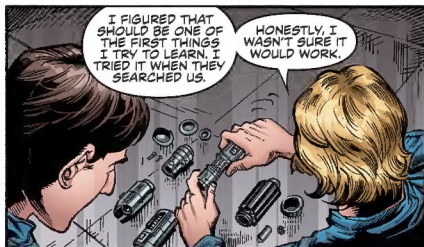
ANTILLES.

A FAMILY
NAME FOUL WITH
REBEL TIES, AND
THE OTHER?

I DON'T
KNOW.

FIND
OUT.





IMPERIAL CENTER.

BDEW!
BDEW!
BDEW!

CHEWIE,
GET THEM
OFF US!

A HALF
MIL IN CREDS
ISN'T FEELING
LIKE ENOUGH,
SOLO.

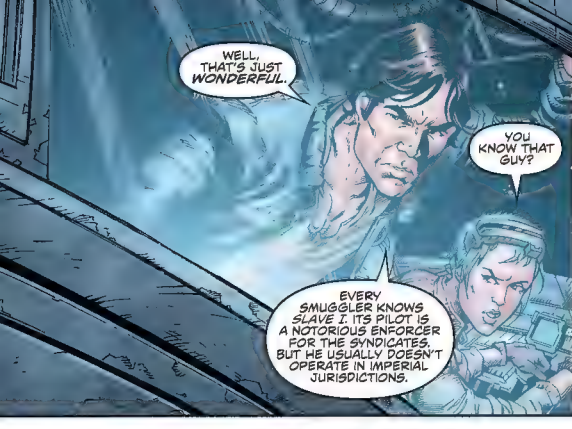
I'M GOOD AT
WHAT I DO, BUT
PUTTING GARBAGE
BARGES THROUGH
EVASIVE MANEUVERS
ISN'T TYPICALLY
ALL IN A DAY'S
WORK.

CHEWIE!

RAHHHR!
RAHHHR!

YOU GOT
LUCKY TODAY,
SOLO--

--I INTEND
TO DELIVER
YOU TO THE
HUTT CARTEL
ALIVE.



WELL,
THAT'S JUST
WONDERFUL.

YOU
KNOW THAT
GUY?

EVERY
SMUGGLER KNOWS
SLAVE 1. ITS PILOT IS
A NOTORIOUS ENFORCER
FOR THE SYNDICATES,
BUT HE USUALLY DOESN'T
OPERATE IN IMPERIAL
JURISDICTIONS.



SPEAKING
OF, WE JUST
GOT LIT UP BY
THAT GOLAN.
WE'RE ALL OVER
THE SECURITY
FEEDS.

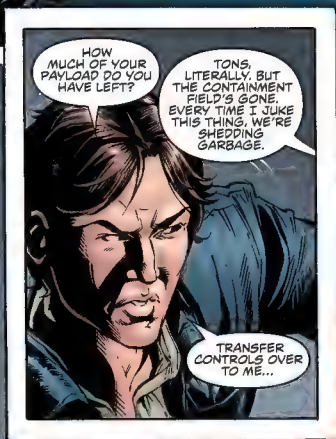
OUR
COVER'S
BLOWN,
SOLO.



VREET
VREET
VREET

GHOOM!

GHOOM!



HOW
MUCH OF YOUR
PAYLOAD DO YOU
HAVE LEFT?

TONS,
LITERALLY. BUT
THE CONTAINMENT
FIELD'S GONE.
EVERY TIME I JUKE
THIS THING, WE'RE
SHEDDING
GARBAGE.

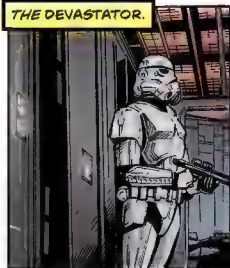
TRANSFER
CONTROLS OVER
TO ME...



...QUICKLY.

YEAH,
SURE, SOLO.
WE'RE DEAD
ANYWAY.

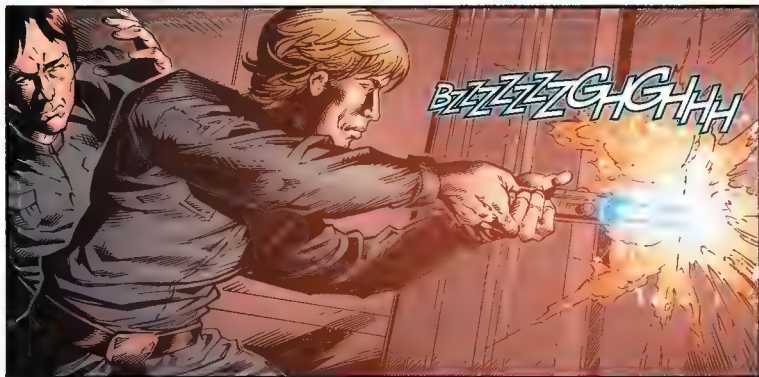
THE DEVASTATOR.

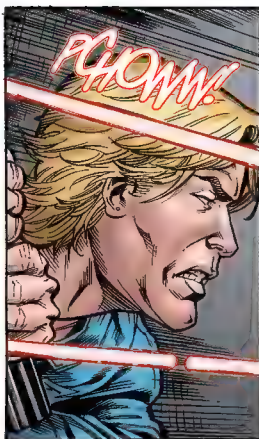
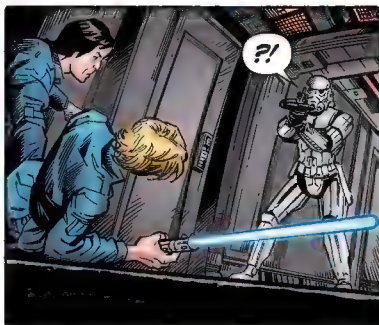


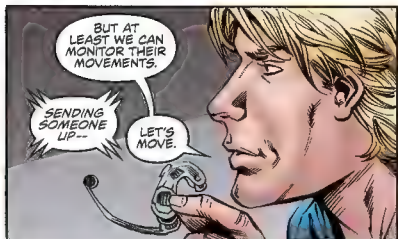
HUH?



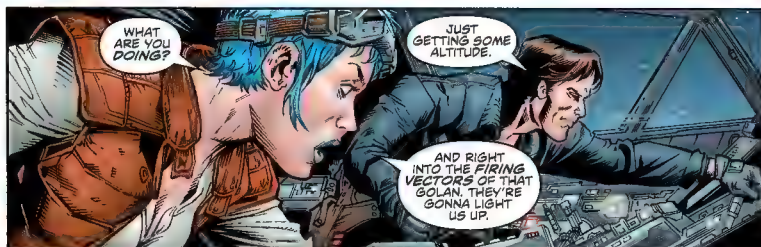
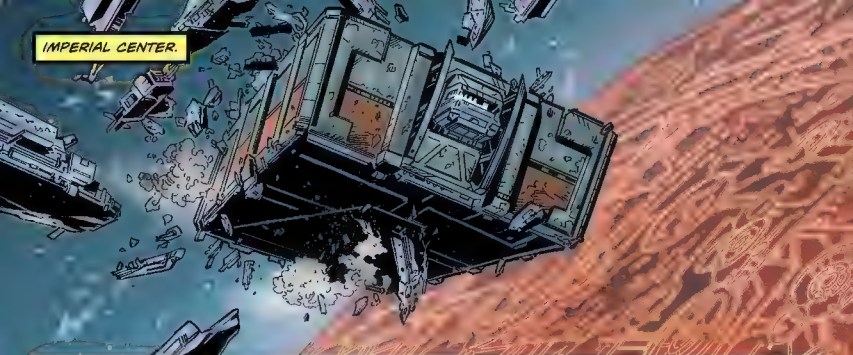
DO IT.







IMPERIAL CENTER.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

JUST GETTING SOME ALTITUDE.

AND RIGHT INTO THE FIRING VECTORS OF THAT GOLAN. THEY'RE GONNA LIGHT US UP.



RIGHT NOW IT'S NOT THE GOLAN THAT'S WORRYING ME --



--BUT THAT BOUNTY HUNTER."



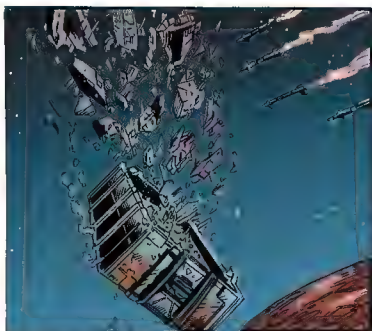
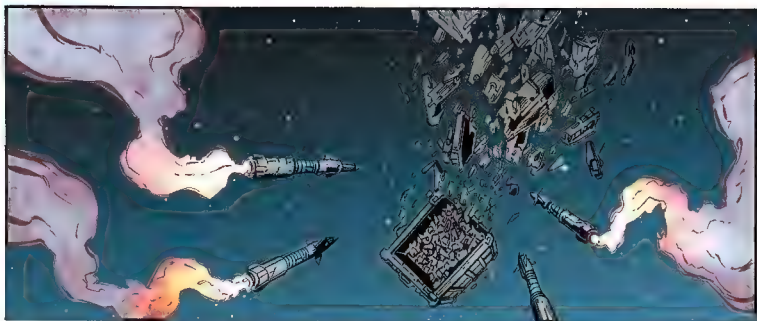
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

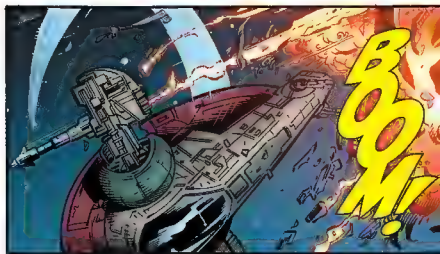
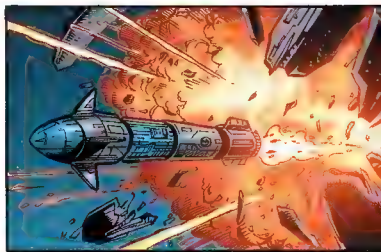
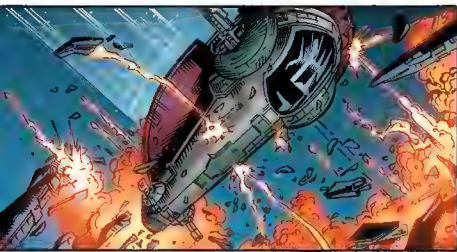
THEY'VE LOCKED ON! THE GOLAN'S FIRING A TORPEDO SPREAD!



WHY, OH WHY, DO I ALWAYS GO FOR THE PILOTS?

BECAUSE WE ALWAYS KEEP YOU GUESSING. HOLD ON.







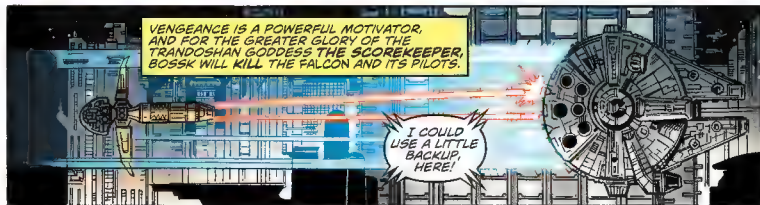
CHEWIE,
WHERE ARE
YOU?

RAWWWWWARRROO!

CHEWBACCA
IS A WOOKIEE.



BOSSK, THE INFAMOUS
TRANDOSHAN BOUNTY HUNTER,
HATES WOOKIEES, AND THIS
IS NOT THE FIRST TIME HE'S
FACED THE MILLENNIUM FALCON.



VENGEANCE IS A POWERFUL MOTIVATOR,
AND FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF THE
TRANDOSHAN GODDESS THE SCOREKEEPER,
BOSSK WILL KILL THE FALCON AND ITS PILOTS.

I COULD
USE A LITTLE
BACKUP
HERE!

THE ALDERAAN SYSTEM.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE?

MAINTAIN
THIS POSITION,
T4.

BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

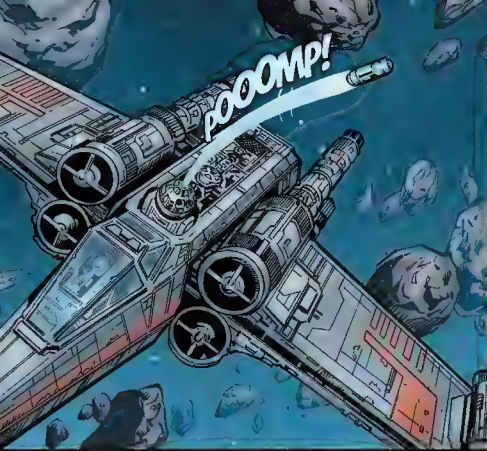
THANK
YOU.

T4,
I'M GOING
TO SEND
YOU A DATA
PACKET...

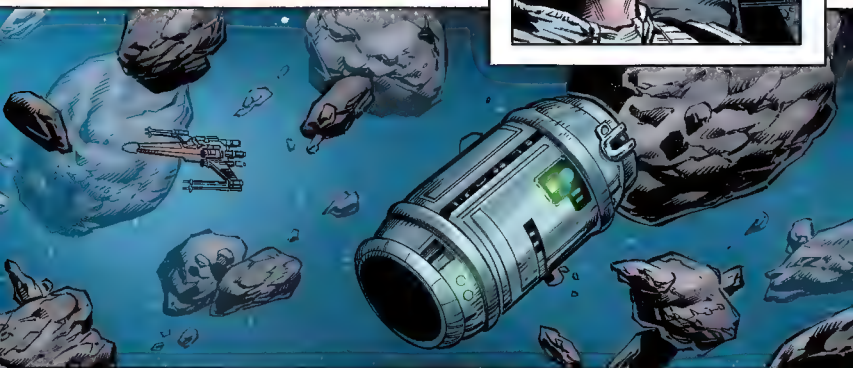
...HARD
CODE IT ONTO
A CAPSULE AND
EJECT IT FOR
ME?

DEET DAH DA DEET DA!

IT'S A
SURVIVOR'S
THING.



"FOR
THE COLLECTIVE
MEMORY OF THOSE
WE LOST, AND WE WHO
CONTINUE WITH THEM
IN OUR HEARTS."



VEEET VLEET FEEET ETT DEET!

A SIGNAL?
FROM WHO?




HOW
DID A SHIP
SNEAK UP
ON US?

AND
VENATOR-
CLASS?

UNIDENTIFIED
X-WING
SNUBFIGHTER,
THIS IS THE
AUDACITY.




PLEASE
IDENTIFY
YOURSELF. ARE
YOU FRIEND OF
ALDERAANI, OR
FOE?



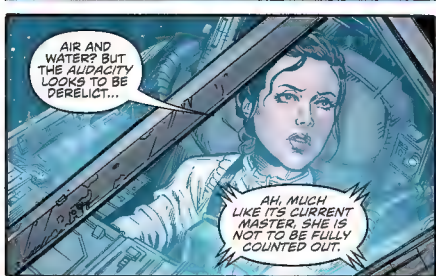
THE
AUDACITY?
THAT SHIP'S FROM
THE TIME OF THE
CLONE WARS!
T4, RUN AS MANY
SCANS AS YOU
CAN ON IT.

AUDACITY, I AM A
FRIEND OF ALDERAAN, AND
AM OBSERVING THE TRADITION
OF REMEMBRANCE. MAY I
ASK WHO YOU ARE?



I AM
AN OLD MAN
ALONE WITH HIS
THOUGHTS. I MEAN
YOU NO HARM. I
TOO, AM HERE TO
REMEMBER.

DO YOU NEED
ASSISTANCE WITH
ANYTHING?



AIR AND
WATER? BUT
THE AUDACITY
LOOKS TO BE
DERELICT...

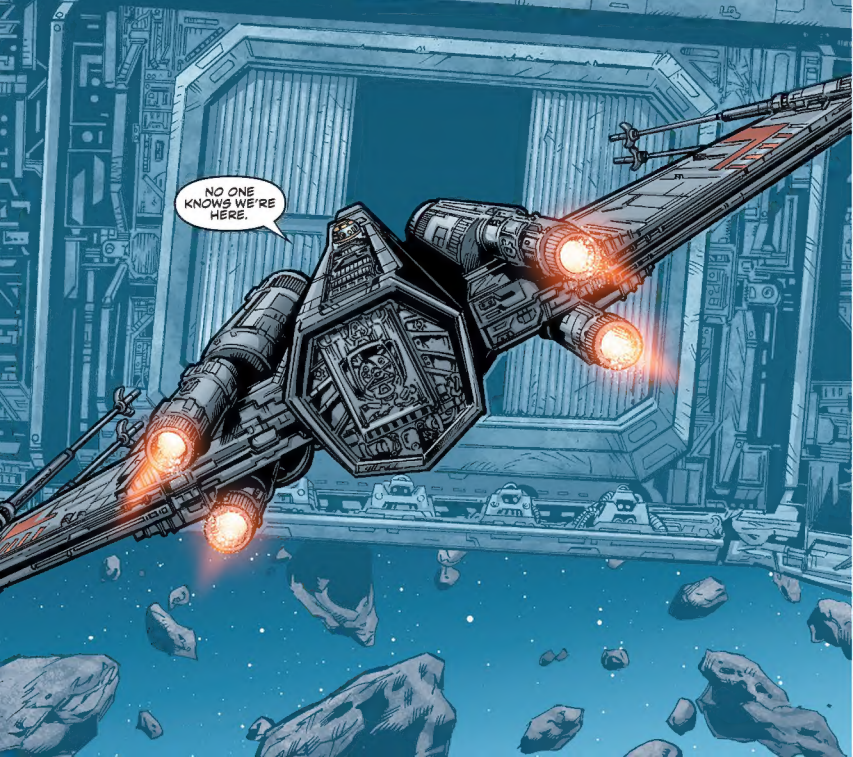
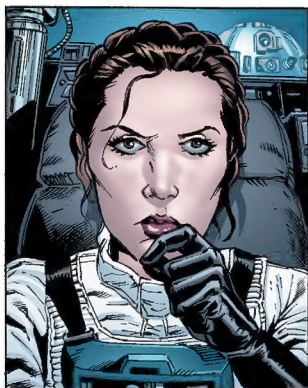
AH, MUCH
LIKE ITS CURRENT
MASTER, SHE IS
NOT TO BE FULLY
COUNTED OUT.



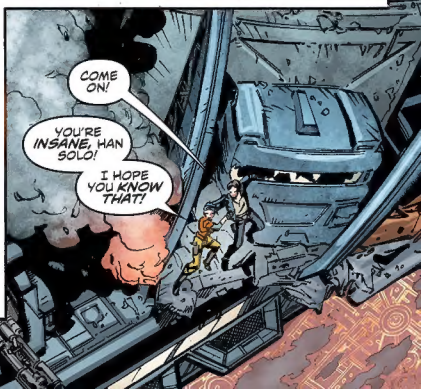
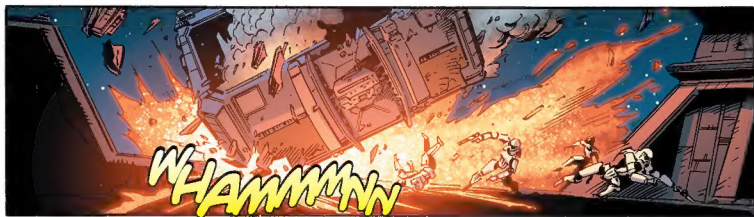
COME
ABOARD, MY
DEAR.

LET THIS
OLD ALDERAANIAN
SEE A FRIENDLY
FACE...

...IN THE
MIDST OF
SO MUCH
SADNESS.



IMPERIAL CENTER





STAR WARS

STAR WARS
C/O DARK HORSE COMICS
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So, Luke and Wedge are wandering around the corridors of a Star Destroyer; Leia is flying into the hangar of a mysterious, derelict ship from another era, and Han Solo is directly in Boba Fett's gun sights. What could possibly go wrong? While you ponder that, let's take a look at some of the letters we've received . . .

Like many of your long-term readers I was there in 1977 when the world changed forever with the release of *Star Wars* to the movie theaters. Over the last thirty-five years I have gratefully consumed the vast array of related comics, especially the couldn't-be-better *Star Wars* titles put out by Dark Horse. Just when it seemed that life could not get any better, you come out with a new ongoing *Star Wars* series set in the original timeline!

The writer and artists have captured the look and feel that transports us all to this special universe and has us all chanting, "More, more!" Great work, everyone, and I look forward to what's ahead.

Thank you for all that you do for us *Star Wars* fans!

Mickey Doughty

*Aw, Mickey. Thank you. But, you know, we don't just do it for you and the other readers. We do it for us, too. We're all fans, and we love getting to tell stories in this galaxy! I think I mentioned in an interview once that when I first took on our *Star Wars* line, I wasn't really sure where to go with anything. But these days, I wake up every morning with new ideas!*

Beedle-beedle-beeoo deedle!*

Reed Beebe
Kansas City, Missouri

*The opinion above translates from binary to English as, "Everyone knows that astromech droids are the real heroes of *Star Wars*, so it was nice to see R2-T4 getting some well-deserved praise for taking such good care of Princess Leia in issue #6. Really, R2-T4 deserves a ticker-tape parade and a bright gold medal from Mon Mothma, but a compliment from surgical droid Two-Onebee will have to suffice for now."

Those astromechs are chatty little hunks of tin, aren't they? Still, where would we be without them, eh? Probably somewhere to the galactic east of Gamor, trying to plot a course longhand back to Aridus, or something.

And, while R2-T4 did show an exceptional degree of droid heroism, you'll see that Prithi's R5 unit is no slouch in that department. Stay with us, Reed.

Issues #4 and #5 of *Star Wars* had a lot of action. Our heroes seem to fly or run from one trap or battle to the next. Though I like big battles much more than the last pilot who just found himself vaporized and drifting through space as a cloud of small particles, I hope future issues will be a little more balanced.

I'd really like to find out more about some of the pilots from Leia's squadron. Don't get me wrong; it's great to see so much of Leia, Han, and Luke, but at the same time the new characters could spice things up

a little. After all, those of us who have followed the Expanded Universe know that the main characters have places to be and people to meet—despite all the cliffhangers hinting at the opposite. The same cannot be said about the new characters. They're pieces of blank paper, and I hope to see them filled. Well, Brian Wood is probably already working on it. I guess my impatience to see the story progress further can be seen as proof that it is interesting!

Lars Meyer
Germany

*I'm not going to attempt to straddle both sides of this debate, Lars. While I have you (and others) asking for more new characters, I also have the ranks of those readers who have returned to *Star Wars* through this title because they're wanting more of the so-called Big Three.*

With any luck, you'll all be able to have it both ways! I don't want to give away too much of what's coming, but there are indeed new supporting characters being added to the cast—even beyond those you've seen thus far. Your impatience will be rewarded!

Randy Stradley
editor

NEXT ISSUE: LOST IN SPACE . . .
STAR WARS #9

